



NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

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May 26, 1950

Schedule

May 27-30 Shawangunk Mountains,
Paul Bradt, Leader
June 3-4 Devil's Garden. Arn-
old Wexler, Leader.

The trip to the Shawangunk Mountains, New York State, will be led by Paul Bradt, GEorgia 3917. Get in touch with him for details of the route, and for transportation arrangements.

Arnold Wexler is leading the trip to Devil's Garden, West Virginia. Wolf Gap Shelter is being reserved for over night camping. Arnold may be reached at EMerson 8658.

BALLOT COUNTED

Unfortunately we don't have at our fingertips the figures totted up on the recent vote regarding our PATC relationship. As may be expected, among the qualified climbers PATC members voted to stay, non-PATC members to get out, and, remarkably, the general opinion of all the club members was almost exactly divided! The interpretation of many features of the ballot is perhaps not altogether clear, and the discussion at the meeting Thursday at the Bien-Conn home is expected to be lively and hoped to be enlightening.

Classified Climbs

For the sake of those who lost skin on the Butterfinger Climb at Sugarloaf Mountain on Sunday, May 14, we shall furnish here a description of that horror which may be used as a warning to coming generations of the reckless and foolhardy.

Butterfinger Climb (A-4). On Sugarloaf Mountain, near Dickerson, Maryland, the group of rocks most commonly visited is 100 yards below the top, beginning 20 or 30 yards to the right of the stairway as one ascends the trail. Crossing the boulder field at the foot of

the cliffs, one passes the low cliff nearest the trail to reach the main formation, some 60 feet in height. The Butterfinger Climb is on the forbidding and somewhat overhanging nose near the beginning of this formation.

The first 10 feet of the climb are in a right angle inside corner to the right of the nose. A hand traverse to the left brings the climber under an overhanging block, which must be surmounted from the sloping top of the block the climber traverses left around the corner in extremely delicate balance. The next few steps upward are accomplished with finger and friction holds against the pull of a confused gravity, which assumes a horizontal component away from the rock especially for this climb. The remainder of the route is comparatively straightforward, directly to the top of the cliff.

The climb is chiefly one of balance and circumspection, although endurance is also required due to the length of the route. A certain amount of nerve is also needed to counteract the ferocious appearance of the cliff.

The Butterfinger Climb was pioneered one summer day in 1942. Three successful ascents were made, by Paul Bradt, Jean Clark, and Don Hubbard, while many another less fortunate climber experienced a wild swing and the long ride down. It was on this climb that Paul's rope jammed above him, and when another rope was thrown to him he learned to untie and tie a bowline with one hand.

--UP ROPE May 30, 1945

UPS AND DOWNS

Al Webb	Bob Hinshaw	John Buck	Peg Keister
Dick Goldman	Ted Schad	Elizabeth Buck	Bill Kemper
Sally Lindsley	Marion Harvey	Alan Buck	Duncan Burchard
Ken Karcher	Sam Brown	Peter Buck	Walter Downs
Pim Karcher	Charles Gallant	Susan Buck	Emma Downs
Bunky Smith	George Stoertz	Judy Buck	Suzanne Downs
Jan Conn	Herb Conn	Doris Banks	Ernie Downs

Rock climbers converged upon the Sugarloaf cliffs from Frederick, Baltimore, Rockville, and Barnesville, as well as from Washington. Bunky Smith, who when younger and less wise climbed the Butterfinger Climb unroped, walked the 7 miles from Barnesville to find out how it is done with benefit of safety rope. After one swing from the upper section of the climb to learn just what the rope is for, he completed the climb satisfactorily, as did Al, Charlie, Pim, Duncan, and Dick. Marion and Bill both came so close to the top that the climb should almost be conceded to them.

Most of the other nearby climbs came in for their share of attention. There were several ascents of the Cave Climb, the Fat Man's Misery, and other unnamed but equally arduous routes. The face toward the trail from the Butterfinger Climb was constantly under assault by young and old, sometimes as a traverse, sometimes by way of the vertical crack, and sometimes (unsuccessfully) straight up the face.

Many of the group wandered off from time to time, presumably for the hike to the summit. Replacing them in number were frequent casual spectators who waited patiently but in vain for the blood and gore which to casual spectators seems inevitably connected with such antics.



A RAINY DAY AT CARDEROCK - AT
LEAST WE'RE AWAY FROM THE CROWDED CITY.

Norman Goldstein
Tony Soler
Lorraine Snyder

Ray Moore
Patsy Moore

Arnold Wexler
Spike Gewiski

The trip to Bull Run Mountain, Virginia, on May 14, 1950, was made in order to test the forces necessary to pull assorted pitons from various cracks in the type rock found there. The morning and some of the afternoon was spent on the tests, and later in the afternoon some climbs were made with varying degrees of success. Charlie's Crack proved as defiant as ever.

Andy Kauffman
Patty Kauffman
Lowell Bennett

Jan Conn
Herb Conn
Don Hubbard
Art Lembeck

Johnny Reed
Peg Keister
Arnold Wexler
Tony Soler

Mary Sturgeon
Duncan Burchard
Leo Scott
Eleanor Tatge

Sunday, May 21. The group spread out along the cliffs a short distance above the quarry on the Virginia side of the Potomac below Great Falls. While Don coached amateurs, Andy led a rope on a water-line traverse, the Conns organized a route up the Overhanging Inside Corner a short distance upstream, Arnold and Art after setting up and taking down Art's new very lightweight tent worked on the delicate Inclined Plane about 50 feet above the Corkscrew, and Mary Sturgeon led the Juliet's Balcony Climb belayed by Eleanor. Later Tony Soler successfully completed the Bird's Nest Climb, and Johnny Reed made a successful lead of Laurence's Last, followed by Peg, Mary, and Arnold. The die-hards still present by the end of the day finished up grandly with the Corkscrew Climb and the face upstream of it.

The Overhanging Inside Corner, one of our less well known climbs, is a fascinating sight. Viewed from above the rope dropped from above appears out of plumb, as if attracted by the cliffs of the opposite shore. Like the Jam Box it looks very climbable but has never been clumb.

Inside Corner

The Scoredoses, Helen and former chairman Chris, announce an addition to their family this morning at 3:22. His name is John Alan and he weighs 7 lbs. 8 oz. Helen is at George Washington Hospital, Rm. 3016A, 3rd floor, South Wing. With two candidates in the ring among the younger generation, the Jam Box is already tottering!

Exchange

The Sierra Club YODELER (San Francisco) announces:

CASTLE ROCK SPIRE--A FIRST ASCENT. Castle Rock Spire has been conquered! This towering spire of granite in Sequoia National Park has long been one of the foremost climbing problems in the Sierra. Five climbers, Phil Battler, Bill Long, Jim Wilson, Will Siri and Al Stock, from the San Francisco Bay Chapter Rock Climbing Section, made the first ascent on Friday, April 28, after spending three days and two nights on the rock. The climb was almost all sixth class, with a few fifth class pitches. This represents one of the most difficult climbs in the Sierra Nevada, perhaps second only to the Lost Arrow.

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